

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 302026Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
UNCLASSIFIED

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USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 154070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 30, 1975:

Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT
PEOPLE WHO ARE IN LEBANON OR TRAVELING THERE?

A. IN THESE UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN LEBANON WE WOULD
EXPECT THAT TRAVELERS TO THE AREA WOULD EXERCISE DISCRETION
AND AVOID PLACES WHERE THE SITUATION IS UNSTABLE AND SEEK
GUIDANCE FROM THE EMBASSY.

Q. THERE'S NO PLAN TO EVACUATE ANY AMERICANS?

A. NO.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF STORIES IN THE ISRAELI PRESS
TODAY ABOUT WHAT THE UNITED STATES TOLD ISRAEL TO DO OR NOT
TO DO. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT. AS THE SECRETARY HAS
STATED, THIS IS A PERIOD OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES AND WE ARE
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NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC
EXCHANGES WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q. ARE THE EXCHANGES CONTINUING THIS WEEK WHILE THE
SECRETARY IS ON VACATION?

A. YES, THEY ARE CONTINUING.

Q. IT HAS BECOME SOMETHING MORE THAN A REASSESSMENT OF
U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, RIGHT?

A. NO, I WOULD NOT SAY THAT. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR
EXCHANGES WITH ALL THE PARTIES. THE REASSESSMENT HAS NOT

BEEN COMPLETED.

Q. THE REASSESSMENT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A REASSESSMENT. COULD IT HAVE GONE INTO EXCHANGES ON THE SUBSTANCE OF A NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT?

A. NO, I THINK IT IS WHAT IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS MANY TIMES. IT HAS NOT MADE ANY CONCLUSION. AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR EXCHANGES AND CONTACTS THEN A DECISION WILL BE MADE AS TO THE NEXT BEST POSSIBLE STEP TO TAKE.

Q. WILL THE SECRETARY BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ BEFORE HE RETURNS TO ISRAEL AT THE END OF THIS WEEK?

A. THE SECRETARY? THE SECRETARY IS ON VACATION THIS WEEK.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT --

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY DIRECT CONTACT OR ONE CONTEMPLATED BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE AMBASSADOR, BUT I WOULD NOT RULE IT OUT. I JUST DO NOT KNOW.

Q. HAS THE REASSESSMENT YIELDED A TENTATIVE U.S. PLAN FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT SHOULD THERE FAIL TO BE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT?

A. NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF.

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Q. YOU SAID WHEN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ARE COMPLETED A DECISION WILL BE MADE. DO DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES EVER END? AND REALLY WHAT IS THIS REASSESSMENT ANYWAY.

A. IT'S WHAT IT WAS DESCRIBED AS THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY, AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO ADD

TO IT THAN THAT.

Q. BUT, IN FACT, IT IS GOING INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SINAI NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BROKE DOWN IN MARCH, RIGHT?

A. YOU KNOW, FROM THE BEGINNING WE HAVE SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE THESE EXCHANGES WITH THE PARTIES, TO EXPLORE WITH THEM HOW WE COULD BEST ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. OBVIOUSLY YOU HAVE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT EACH SIDE'S POSITION IS IN THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

Q. IS IT THE U.S. CONCLUSION THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A TEMPORARY PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE FOR ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE PASSES?

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS.

Q. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STORIES THAT USED THE WORD "ULTIMATUM" IN THE CONTEXT OF A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DINITZ AND PRESIDENT FORD. I JUST WANT TO UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY THAT YOU DO NOT CHOSE TO DENY THAT THE UNITED STATES THROUGH PRESIDENT FORD OR THE SECRETARY GAVE ANY ULTIMATUM TO ISAREL LAST WEEK.

A. I HAVE SEEN THESE PRESS REPORTS. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR EXCHANGES.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO NEXT MONTH? IS THAT STILL ON THE SCHEDULE?

A. IT'S ON THE SCHEDULE, BUT IT'S THE SAME AS WHERE IT WAS ON FRIDAY WHEN THE SECRETARY LEFT, AND THAT IS THAT NO DATE OR PLACE HAS BEEN SET YET. BUT HE'S STILL LOOKING UNCLASSIFIED

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FORWARD TO SEEING THE FOREIGN MINISTER SOMETIME IN JULY.

Q. BEFORE A POSSIBLE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE?

A. THAT STILL HASN'T BEEN CONCLUDED. SO I CAN'T REALLY RELATE TO IT.

Q. WOULD HE SEE GROMYKO IN ANY CASE?

A. THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING. INGERSOLL

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